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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 10/686,406 | 10/14/2003 | Hideto Nakamura | FP03-021US | 6846 |

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| EXAMINER |
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NGUYEN, PHUONGCHI T

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| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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2833

DATE MAILED: 03/29/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. 10/686,406 | Applicant(s) NAKAMURA, HIDETO | |
| | Examiner Phuongchi Nguyen | Art Unit 2833 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.135(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
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| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION***Claim Objections***

1. Claim 3 is objected to because of the following informality:

Claim 3, lines 1-2, the language “the cavity C comprises a large portion (52) at a rear side, a small portion (22) at a front side” is not clear. Claim 1 defines “at least one cavity C extending between the front and rear ends” (of the housing H) (claim 1, line 2); that means the cavity C is extending from the large portion 52 to the front end portion 50 of the housing H. The “small portion 22 at a front side” is actually located in the middle portion of the housing H (figure 8). 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) provides, in part, that “the terms and phrases used in the claims must find clear support or antecedent basis in the description so that the meaning of the terms in the claims may be ascertainable by reference to the description.” If there is no definition of the terms, then the common usage is applied. The word *front* generally means “the forward part or surface,” (<http://dictionary.reference.com/search?q=front>) which is inconsistent with the cavity as claimed in claim 1. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-2 and 5-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kurimoto et al (US6638109B2).

In regard to claim 1, Kurimoto et al discloses a connector having a connector housing (the connector housing of the element 60) with opposite front (adjacent 64) and rear ends

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(adjacent 61) (figure 1) and at least one cavity (where 20 located inside 60) extending between the front and rear ends (adjacent 64 and 61), the cavity (where 20 located inside 60) being configured for receiving a terminal fitting (10) from behind (figure 12) and along an insertion direction, wherein the connector housing (the connector housing of the element 60) is divided into an inner housing (20) and an outer housing (of 60) into which the inner housing (20) is mountable in a mounting direction (inserted direction) from the front (adjacent 64); and a receiving portion (66; because 65 is a protrusion, 66 inherently includes a receiving portion therefor) in the outer housing (of 60) engageable with a lock (65) in the inner housing (20) to hold the inner housing (20) undetectably, the receiving portion (66) having a locking surface (of 66) for engaging the lock (65) and the receiving portion (66) being exposed rearwardly to outside through the cavity (where 20 located inside 60) (figures 6 and 11).

In regard to claim 2, Kurimoto et al discloses the connector wherein the lock (65) also serves as at least a part of an inner wall of the cavity (where 20 located inside 60) while being engaged with the receiving portion (66) (because the lock 65 fills up the latch hole or latch groove of the receiving portion 66 from inner wall of the cavity).

In regard to claim 5, Kurimoto et al discloses the connector wherein a retainer (40) is mountable to the inner housing (20), the retainer (40) having a locking section (45) for locking the terminal fitting (10) in the inner housing (20).

In regard to claim 6, Kurimoto et al discloses the connector wherein the retainer (40) can be positioned in a first position (40 partly engages 20) where insertion of the terminal fitting (10) is permitted (figures 18 and 19); and in a second position (when 40 completely engages 20 and 60), where the terminal fitting (10) is locked to the inner housing (20) (figure 15). Figures 18 and 19 show the retainer in one "position" where the retainer lock 46 is raised (i.e. in one position)

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and figure 15 shows a second "position" when the retainer lock 46 is not raised and is engaged (locked) with the terminal.

In regard to claim 7, Kurimoto et al discloses the connector wherein the locking section (45) forms at least part of an inner wall of the cavity (where 20 located inside 60) when the retainer (40) is in the first position (40 engages 20).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. The applied reference has a common assignee (but different inventive entity) with the instant application. Based upon the earlier effective U.S. filing date of the reference, it constitutes prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). This rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) might be overcome either by a showing under 37 CFR 1.132 that any invention disclosed but not claimed in the reference was derived from the inventor of this application and is thus not the invention "by another," or by an appropriate showing under 37 CFR 1.131.

5. Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kurimoto et al (US6638109B2).

In regard to claim 3, Kurimoto et al discloses the connector wherein the cavity (where 20 is located inside 60) comprises a large portion (where 20 is located) at a front side, a small portion (adjacent 61) at a rear side. Kurimoto et al lacks a tapered portion. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to modify the cavity of the connector of Kurimoto et al by including the tapered portion for ease in inserting the inner connector.

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In regard to claim 4, Kurimoto et al discloses the connector wherein the lock (65) comprises a slanted surface (inclined surface).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phuongchi Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-2012. The examiner can normally be reached from 8:00AM-4:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula Bradley can be reached on (571) 272-2800 ext 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

PCN

March 21, 2005.


RENEE LUEBKE
PRIMARY EXAMINER